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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Egypt/Other Middle East Countries

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SUBJECT Grand Mufti's New Arab Organisation

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN Cairo

EVALUATION OF SOURCE

1	2	3	4	5	6
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1	2	3	4	5	6
CONTAINED OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	POSSIBLY FALSE	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED

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SOURCE From three Moslems with close contacts in government circles, two of whom are well acquainted with Arab affairs.

1. Thoroughly dissatisfied with the Arab League, which he describes as "a disgraceful symbol of Arab betrayal", the Grand Mufti is proceeding with his own plans for creating a new Arab organization to supplement and eventually to supersede the present League. This new "League of Arab Nations" derives from a plan first conceived by the Iraqi Independent Party in July 1946 and later taken up by certain Arab nationalist groups who tried without success to create a "popular Arab National League". It is designed to give freedom of expression to the Arab nations as a cohesive nationality group, unhindered by such diplomatic and other formalities as, according to the Grand Mufti, circumscribe the present Arab League. Although still in a formative stage, some progress has been made in Palestine where the Grand Mufti's Arab Higher Committee is actively engaged in sponsoring the movement. Instrumental in this work are Jamal al-Din Husayni, Husayn Khalidi, Saïle Ghuri, and Ahmad Hilmi Pasha. The new organization's first action will be the defense of Palestine against "British imperialism and Zionist terrorism".

2. The plan of the Grand Mufti calls for the creation of an independent Arab body composed of two units:

- (a) Majlis al-Sahabah (High Council)
- (b) Al-Ansar (Comrades)

If the Arab League ever fails in its mission, these two units will carry on its work, in accordance with the "popular" will of the Arab nations, outside of the framework of their governments. The aim will be to unify the Arabs on the principle that "the Arabs are one nation."

3. The Majlis al-Sahabah will be composed of representatives from each Arab nation with general leadership reserved for the Grand Mufti. Its task will be to appraise the work of the Arab League. It will support the Arab League if the League acts honestly in the interest of the Arab Nations, but it will severely judge any mistakes or vacillation. Then the al-Ansar terrorist group will be called into action.

Field Comment: The Grand Mufti has already proposed that Muhammad Bey Salah al-Din of Cairo represent Egypt in the Majlis al-Sahabah. Salah al-Din, Nafdist ex-Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, was

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retired because of his political affiliation and is at present a manager in the Cairo water-works. The Grand Mufti has recommended Salah al-Din because "he is a fearless patriot who will not submit to the British at any price."

4. The duty of al-Ansar is to carry out the recommendations of the *Wajlis al-Sahabah*. It will be a secret youth organization recruited from volunteers of all the Arab nations on the basis of individual merit, courage, loyalty and devotion to the Arab cause. Members will not be over 20 years of age, their movements and their names to be kept secret. Branches for each Arab state, divided into cells of five members each, will be formed. Military drill will be conducted, and the unit is envisaged as forming the nucleus of a future Arab Army. Although it will have no officers, it is provided that, upon orders from the *Wajlis al-Sahabah*, unknown leaders will direct individual al-Ansar groups to punish Arab League officials or other Arab officials who do not loyally discharge their patriotic duties. Death will be the penalty for each traitor.
5. The principles of the group, as defined by the Grand Mufti, are:
 - (a) The Arab individual in any Arab country will be the brother of all the Arabs in that country. His relationship to his original home will be that of the individual to his family. The Greater Arab State will be his only home. Its citizens are all the Arabs.
 - (b) The pact of the Arab League is the sharpest weapon the Arabs hold against their antagonists, but if those holding this weapon ever falter, al-Ansar will take action.
 - (c) The aim of union of all the Arab nations through the Arab League cannot be accomplished unless one Arab Army is formed and unless their economy and foreign policies are unified. These are the three fundamental conditions upon which the independence and unity of the Arabs must rest.
 - (d) Palestine is an Arab home. We must prevent with violence depriving this Arab land of its freedom. We must not permit its dismemberment from the body of the Arab nation. The Arab League is neglecting its duty so long as the Palestine question remains unsolved.
 - (e) The principles of our group and its aims will be spread throughout the Arab world. Guest-houses will be established to facilitate exchange of visits between Arab lands and to help al-Ansar groups to travel. These guest-houses will serve as club rooms for Arab youth and no Arab will be received in a guest-house unless he is in possession of an identification

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card issued by responsible representatives. Each guest-house will provide information with regard to the country in which it is established, so that the Arab guest may know the situation in the land where he is travelling. Other aims of the guest-houses are:

- (1) To arrange sports matches among youth of Arab countries;
- (2) To spread Arabic culture;
- (3) To celebrate the national holidays in an appropriate manner;
- (4) To assist travelling fellow Arabs and fellow students to earn a living.

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